

IP-10/MIG RECEPTOR DESIGNATED CXCR3, NUCLEIC ACIDS,
AND METHODS OF USE THEREFOR

Abstract of the Disclosure

The present invention relates to proteins or
5 polypeptides, referred to herein as isolated and/or
recombinant mammalian (e.g., human) IP-10/Mig receptor
proteins designated CXC Chemokine Receptor 3 (CXCR3) and
variants thereof, including those characterized by
selective binding of one or more chemokines (e.g., IP-10
10 and/or Mig), and/or the ability to induce a cellular
response (e.g., chemotaxis, exocytosis). Antibodies
reactive with CXCR3 receptors can be produced using the
proteins or variants thereof or host cells comprising same
as immunogen.

15 Another aspect of the invention relates to isolated
and/or recombinant nucleic acids encoding a mammalian
(e.g., human) CXCR3 protein and variants thereof, including
antisense nucleic acid, recombinant nucleic acid
constructs, such as plasmids or retroviral vectors,
20 comprising a nucleic acid which encodes a protein of the
present invention or variant thereof, and to host cells
comprising a nucleic acid or construct, useful in the
production of recombinant proteins. Also encompassed are
methods of identifying ligands, and inhibitors (e.g.,
25 antagonists) or promoters (e.g., agonists) of receptor
function, including methods in which host cells comprising
a nucleic acid encoding a CXCR3 or variant thereof are used
in an assay to identify and assess the efficacy of ligands,
inhibitors or promoters. Inhibitors and promoters of
30 receptor function can be used to modulate receptor
activity, permitting selective inhibition of lymphocyte
function, particularly of effector cells such as activated
T lymphocytes and NK cells for therapeutic purposes.